



Fellowship Awards FY23

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the deadline

Maximum Award: \$5,000

Required Match: None

Award Cycle: July 1 to June 30

Maine Artist Fellowships recognize artistic excellence and advance the careers of Maine artists. Fellowships are not grants, they are merit-based awards that are informed by an applicant's work as documented through the application and support materials. Maine Artist Fellowships are available in the categories: Belvedere Handcraft, Fine Craft, Literary Arts, Multimedia/Film, Performing Arts, Traditional Arts, and Visual Arts. Applicants may only apply in one discipline category only per annual grant cycle. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the deadline.

If you have questions about information in the application guidelines you can go to the definitions help page at: <http://mainearts.maine.gov/pages/funding/application-definitions>

Information about specific Fellowship requirements:

- **Belvedere Handcraft** - Available to craft artists of Hancock or Washington County only. Artists working in clay, fiber, glass, leather, metal, paper, stone, wood or other studio craft mediums are eligible to apply. Craft artists in other counties should apply for the Fine Craft Artist Fellowship.
- **Fine Craft** - Available for craft artists engaged in contemporary studio practice and/ or traditional materials such as clay, fiber, glass, leather, metal, paper, stone, wood, or other mediums. Craft artists residing in Washington or Hancock counties should apply for the Belvedere Handcraft Fellowship.
- **Literary Arts**- Available to contemporary literary artists in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, prose, and other writing genera. Literary artists who work in the medium of scriptwriting for the stage or screen should apply in the performing arts fellowship category.
- **Multimedia/Film**- Available to media artists and filmmakers working in the disciplines of film, video, animation, podcasts, web series, and other performative works that are presented through a mediating technology (not meant to be experienced live). Photography artists should apply to the Visual Arts Fellowship.
- **Performing Arts**- Available to artists working in disciplines including theatre, dance, music, scenic design, opera, script writing and other genera intended to be presented as a live performance.
- **Traditional Arts** -Available to a person for the experience and commitment to the traditional art form they practice. The program honors Maine traditional artists who have devoted their lives to keeping a particular traditional art form alive. These arts call for a deep connection to place and local practices and play an essential role in shaping a traditional artist's work and repertoire. This could include maintaining



Fellowship Awards FY23

cultural traditions in building, writing, music, dance, textile arts, carving, weaving, boatbuilding, and other heritage expressions practiced by established populations or new immigrant artists.

- **Visual Arts** – Available to artists working in disciplines including painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, photography, installation, and other visual arts genres. Digital art can fit within this category, but artists working with the moving image may wish to apply to the Media Fellowship.

Eligibility Requirements

An applicant is eligible to apply if they meet the following criteria:

- Is an individual Maine artist or part of an artist collective (collectives may only apply once per award cycle, using the name of an individual member)
- Has a current **Maine Arts Commission account**
- Has a State of Maine **Vendor Code** (*required to receive funding*)
https://mainearts.maine.gov/CMSContent/arts_grants/Grant%20Help%20Docs/Form_Vendor%20Code1.pdf
- If applicable, has completed **Final Reports** required by the Maine Arts Commission for previous awards
- Is a current **Maine resident** who has resided full-time in Maine for at least one year immediately prior to the application deadline
- Will be a Maine resident throughout the project period
- Is at least 25 years of age or older by the application deadline
- Is not an enrolled student at the start of the award cycle (July 1) (*Please contact the agency if you have questions*)
- Has not been previously awarded a Maine Artist Fellowship

Eligible Expenses

Fellowships are merit-based awards that are informed by an applicant's work as documented through the application and support materials. There are no eligibility restrictions on how awardees may apply funding.

Ineligible Expenses

None

Application Scoring

Narrative to be completed in the Application Portal (*All character counts include spaces. 2,550 characters/page.*)

Traditional Arts is the only Fellowship that requires completing online narrative fields. All other applications use only uploaded materials.

-- Traditional Arts Only --

- Provide an overview of your traditional art form. (700 characters max.)
- Provide a description of how you learned your art including who taught you as well as other family, tribal, ethnic, occupation influences on your work (700 characters max.)
- How long have you been practicing your art form? (500 characters max.)
- Provide a description of the community where you practice your art. What is your role as an artist in this community? (700 characters max.)
- Include a description of local, state, or national recognition of your work. (700 characters max.)



Fellowship Awards FY23

Review Criteria

Fellowship applications are reviewed on a competitive basis. Decisions are made holistically and informed by an applicant's artistic excellence and artistic merit as documented through the application and support materials.

To Apply

All applications must be submitted through the online **Application Portal**. Once an application is started, the applicant may make changes up until the deadline. When completed, the applicant must hit the 'Submit' button on the final page. This locks the application and makes it ready for review. The application includes an online form and attachments to be uploaded.

Online Form Requirements:

- Completed **grant narrative** (only for Traditional Arts Fellowship applicants)

Uploads - You will be able to upload up to a total of 10 pieces of support materials through the Application Portal. Some are required, others are optional. The total amount should be 10 items or fewer.

Required Attachments to be uploaded:

- Resumes, bio, or curriculum vitae
- A brief statement about the artist and their work
- **Artistic samples**: This could include images, audio, or video materials (*Max. length: five minutes each*), prose samples, poetry, etc. *
- An itemized list of the uploaded materials

** Literary Arts applicants are limited to uploading only writing samples such as prose samples, poetry, etc.*

Vendor Code – An applicant must have a current Vendor Code to receive award funds.

- **For new applicants** – Please read the **Vendor Form help information**, download a Vendor Form, fill it out, and return it to the Maine Arts Commission by mail, email, or fax.
- **For past applicants**: If your contact information has changed in the past year, you will need to fill out a new Vendor Form with your updates.

The Maine Arts Commission reserves the right to use submitted materials in the non-commercial promotion of the artist and/or Maine Arts Commission programs.

Review Process

Submitted applications are reviewed by Agency staff for completion, eligibility, and adherence to the guidelines. Compliant applications are read by a diverse panel of arts and culture professionals with appropriate expertise related to the fellowship program. Award recommendations are submitted by the panel to the Maine Arts Commission members at their bimonthly meeting for final approval. All applicants are soon notified of the awards.



Fellowship Awards FY23

Awards

The delivery of funds may take up to six months from the time of award notification. All applicants are notified of their award status (approved or declined) via email. Successful applicants also receive emails with documents and instructions on award acceptance. Awardees are listed on the Maine Arts Commission website.

Ask for Help

The staff at the Maine Arts Commission are ready to help as you prepare your application and navigate the Application Portal. We especially encourage first-time applicants and those new to grant writing to contact us for assistance. For more information, visit our staff directory:

<https://mainearts.maine.gov/pages/general/contact-us>

Accessibility

Grant information can be made available in large print format or other languages by request. All Maine Arts Commission programs are accessible to people with disabilities. All programs funded by the Maine Arts Commission must also be accessible. To learn more, the NEA offers an accessibility self-assessment checklist:

<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/BriefChecklist-February2020.pdf> Please direct questions about agency accessibility and accommodation to Kerstin Gilg, at Kerstin.gilg@maine.gov or 207-287-6719.